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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M.L. Dopps et al. Attorney Docket No.: WEYE116173
Application No.: 09/666,213 Group Art Unit: 3761
Filed: September 21, 2000 Examiner: J.F. Stephens
Title: ABSORBENT COMPOSITE HAVING FIBROUS BANDS

REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

AND EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

September 27, 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

A Notice of Allowability was issued August 26, 2004, indicating that Claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16-35, and 41-55 were allowed. However, the notice was accompanied by an Examiner's Amendment indicating that Claims 49-55, directed to an originally non-elected species, were canceled. On September 22, 2004, applicants' attorney telephoned the Examiner requesting clarification of the allowed claims. The Examiner indicated that Claims 49-55 had been rejoined, examined, and allowed, as stated in the Notice of Allowability.

In view of the inconsistency of the Notice of Allowability and Examiner's Amendment, and to avoid confusion in the issuance of the patent and the publication of allowed Claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16-35, and 41-55, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner clarify the allowed

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claims for the written record and issue a supplemental Notice of Allowability and Examiner's Amendment or statement indicating that Claims 49-55 have been rejoined, examined, and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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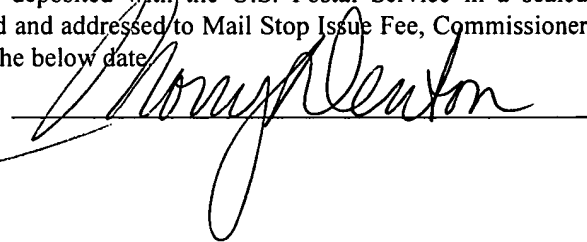


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

September 27, 2004



GER:md

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